

Appendix D:

Example Outreach Letter for Maximum Contaminant Level Exceedances



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Michael R. Pence
Governor

Carol S. Comer
Commissioner

DATE

66-33

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. Last Name:

Re: 2015 Ground Water Monitoring Results

Site ID:

PWSID:

Thank you for allowing us to sample your drinking water well on [DATE] as part of our Ground Water Monitoring Network.

Issues were detected with your drinking water that you may wish to address.

The laboratory results show that you have a detection above the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for [ANALYTE]. The MCL is the level above which a contaminant is known to cause adverse health effects over a long term exposure. The MCL is set by U.S. EPA and applies only to public water supply systems. However, private well owners can use the MCLs as guidelines to evaluate the quality of their water.

[ANALYTE] was detected in your drinking water at a level of [result and units]. The U.S. EPA MCL for [ANALYTE] is [MCL and units]. Attached, you will find information sheets that contain information on this contaminant, its health effects, and how you remove it from your drinking water. In addition to our information, the state of Minnesota has helpful information regarding arsenic in drinking water that can be found at this website: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/arsenic.html>

Specific details of compounds detected in your water are included on the table titled "2013 Ground Water Monitoring Network Sample Results" that was included with this letter. Here is some additional information to help you interpret your results.

- a. The Site ID is a unique number assigned to a site in the Ground Water Monitoring Network. If you are a public water supply, it is not related to your public water supply identification number. The Site ID is also used for looking up results from previous years if you have participated in previous sampling years. For previous years' sampling results go to our website: <http://www.in.gov/idem/6762.htm>.
- b. The Sample ID is a unique number used to identify the sample collected on the date indicated. If your well was sampled more than once, you will find additional results under different Sample IDs for each date it was sampled.
- c. The results are reported in the units of milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter (ug/L). For water, 1 mg/L is roughly equal to 1 part per million (ppm), which means one part of a substance diluted in one million parts of water. This is approximately the same as a half of a drop of water in a bathtub. For water, 1 ug/L is roughly equal to 1 part per billion (ppb), which means one part of a substance diluted in one billion parts of water. This is roughly the equivalent of one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.
- d. There are additional columns to aid you in comparing your water to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) drinking water standards. A Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is the level above which a contaminant is known to cause adverse health effects over a long term exposure. A Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) or recommended level (set by U.S. EPA or the state of Indiana) is based on aesthetics such as color and odor, which do not pose a risk to health. Under the authority of the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#), U.S. EPA sets standards for approximately 90 contaminants in drinking water. *Not all of the analytical parameters IDEM tested for have MCLs or SMCLs, but they are noted when possible. If the MCL or SMCL column is blank, there is currently no standard set for that analyte.*

To offer guidance regarding this contaminant found in your drinking water sample and explain possible treatment options, a representative from the Groundwater Section will contact you to go over these results. IDEM cannot endorse nor recommend any specific home water treatment unit over another, but for your information, we have provided a U.S. EPA booklet, Filtration Facts. This booklet may help you decide what treatment you may want based on the contamination found in your water.

We tested for over 400 analytes, but we are only providing results for what was detected in your water. The complete list of all of the analytical parameters that your water was tested for during this study is available at our website:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/6762.htm>.

At our website, you will also find sampling results for other sites that were sampled by IDEM as part of the Ground Water Monitoring Network, as well as sampling results for previous years. Additional information about ground water quality, drinking water quality, water filtration, and specific contaminants can be found at the links on our website.

Thank you again for your participation in this program. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kevin Spindler via phone, (317) 234-3243, or by email, kspindle@idem.in.gov.

Sincerely,

James Sullivan, Chief
Ground Water Section
Drinking Water Branch
Office of Water Quality